



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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September 5, 2003

EL PASO MAN CHARGED WITH FEDERAL FIREARMS AND DRUG OFFENSES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a criminal complaint was filed earlier today against 35-year-old Sylvestre Flores of El Paso, Texas, for federal firearms and drug offenses.

The complaint alleges that yesterday, Flores was in possession of a machine gun and a silencer not registered to him, received a firearm that had an obliterated serial number, and possessed with intent to distribute marijuana. The complaint states that yesterday Flores met with undercover agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and exchanged approximately 20 pounds of marijuana for three Colt .38 caliber pistols, one fully automatic Ingram 9mm M-10 machine gun and one silencer. At the request of the defendant during a meeting with the undercover agents on Wednesday, the serial numbers on the pistols had been obliterated and removed prior to the firearms being transferred to the defendant.

Flores remains in federal custody following yesterday's arrest. If convicted of the charges, Flores faces a minimum of 30 years in federal prison. This case is the result of a joint investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald is prosecuting the case for the government.

A complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.